

# Appointments to Committees

Report of the Democracy and Governance Portfolio Holder

## Recommended:

1. **That Councillor Harber be appointed to the Northern Area Planning Committee to replace Councillor Andersen.**
2. **That Councillor Sangster be appointed to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to replace Councillor Harber.**
3. **That Councillor Bailey be appointed as the Vice Chairman of the Southern Area Planning Committee to replace Councillor Hatley.**

## SUMMARY:

- In accordance with the provisions set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 the Council is required to review the representation of the political groups on committees where there is a notified political group and when there is a change to political proportionality as soon as practicable
- Council approval is sought for changes to the membership of the Council's Northern Area Planning Committee and Overview and Scrutiny Committee as a result of the change to the political membership of the Council.
- Council approval is sought for a change to the Vice Chairmanship of the Southern Area Planning Committee.

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 Following the resignation of Councillor Matthews as a Borough Councillor, a By-Election was held on 15 December 2022. Following the By-Election, the political balance of the Council's Committees has been reviewed.
- 1.2 The review has highlighted that two changes are required across the Council's Committees in order for them to continue to reflect political proportionality.

## 2 Background

- 2.1 Changes are required on two of the Council's Committees, the Northern Area Planning Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.2 At its meeting on 26 June 2019, Council agreed that the membership of the Northern Area Planning Committee and Southern Area Planning Committee should reflect the representation of local Ward Members.
- 2.3 In order to reflect the current political balance of the Council across the committees, it is necessary to make the following changes:

- 2.3.1 The Independent representation on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee needs to be moved to the Northern Area Planning Committee to replace a Conservative Member.
- 2.3.2 This results in a vacancy on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which is required to be filled by a Liberal Democrat Member.

### **3 Risk Management**

- 3.1 A Risk Management questionnaire has been completed and indicates this report does not require a risk assessment because the changes/issues covered by this report are not significant in terms of risk or have previously been considered.

### **4 Resource Implications**

- 4.1 There are no resource implications.

### **5 Legal Implications**

- 5.1 There are no legal implications. A resolution of full Council is required to effect the replacement appointments.

### **6 Equality Issues**

- 6.1 None are identified.

### **7 Other Issues**

- 7.1 Community Safety - none
- 7.2 Environmental Health Issues - none
- 7.3 Sustainability and Addressing a Changing Climate - none
- 7.4 Property Issues - none
- 7.5 Wards/Communities Affected – none

### **8 Options and Options Appraisal**

- 8.1 The options are to either make the appointments as set out in the report or not. It is recommended that Council resolves to make the appointments as recommended to ensure the Committees in question are politically balanced.

### **9 Conclusion and reasons for recommendation**

- 9.1 It is recommended that Councillors are appointed to the Northern Area Planning Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to ensure political balance.

Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)

None

Confidentiality

It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and can be made public.

No of Annexes:	None	File Ref:	N/A
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(Portfolio: Democracy and Governance) Councillor I Jeffrey

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Report to:	Council	Date:	25 January 2023
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